

REMARKS

Claims 30 - 52 are pending in the application.

Appropriate headings have been added to the specification, and claims from the literal translation have been replaced by claims drafted in conformity with U.S. Patent practice.

The application in its amended state is believed to be in condition for allowance. However, should the Examiner have any comments or suggestions, or wish to discuss the merits of the application, the undersigned would very much welcome a telephone call in order to expedite placement of the application into condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



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* For Examiner's Reference

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1 – 29: Cancelled

30. (New) A nozzle assembly (22) for applying a liquid to a substrate, wherein the nozzle assembly (22) comprises a nozzle body (26) incorporating a plurality of nozzles (36) located substantially in a line and a substantially vertically extending guide plate (28) having a flat surface and a straight lower edge (64), wherein the nozzles (36) are directed towards the flat surface of the guide plate (28) above the lower edge (64) so that a liquid film (84) forms on the guide plate (28) and flows off over the lower edge (64), wherein a downwardly widening gap (80) is formed between the nozzle body (26) and the guide plate (28), said widening gap (80) being formed by a flat surface (76) of the nozzle body (26) and the flat surface of the guide plate (28) which are arranged at an acute angle (α) relative to one another, and wherein the planes of the flat surfaces cross above the nozzle assembly in the area of the nozzle body.

31. (New) A nozzle assembly (22) in accordance with Claim 1, wherein the acute angle (α) is adjustable.

32. (New) A nozzle assembly (22) in accordance with Claim 30, wherein the acute angle (α) lies between 0.5 and 4°, preferably between 1° and 3°, and more preferably between 1.5° and 2.5°.

33. (New) A nozzle assembly (22) in accordance with Claim 30, wherein the flat surface of the guide plate (28) extends downwardly over the entire flat surface (76) of the nozzle body (26).

34. (New) A nozzle assembly (22) in accordance with Claim 30, wherein the guide plate (28) is attached directly to the nozzle body (26), or wherein the guide plate (28) is attached to the nozzle body (26) above the nozzles (36).

35. (New) A nozzle assembly (22) in accordance with Claim 30, wherein a seal (74) is located above the nozzles (36) between the nozzle body (26) and the guide plate (28).

36. (New) A nozzle assembly (22) in accordance with Claim 35, wherein a recess is provided in the nozzle body (26) for accommodating the seal (74).

37. (New) A nozzle assembly (22) in accordance with Claim 35, wherein the seal (74) has a round cross section.

38. (New) A nozzle assembly (22) in accordance with Claim 30, wherein the nozzles (36) are formed by straight passages in the nozzle body (26) and whereby, in terms of height, an inlet end (50) of the passage lies below an outlet end (51).

39. (New) A nozzle assembly (22) in accordance with Claim 36, wherein the inlet ends (50) of the nozzles (36) flow into a common distributor line (38) which has a substantially larger cross section than the respective nozzles

(36).

40 (New) A nozzle assembly (22) in accordance with Claim 39, wherein the inlet ends (50) of the nozzles (36) lie at or in the proximity of a highest point of the distributor line (38).

41 (New) A nozzle assembly (22) in accordance with Claims 39, wherein a supply line (44) is located below the distributor line (38) and is connected by a plurality of feeder lines (54) to the distributor line (38).

42 (New) A nozzle assembly (22) in accordance with Claim 41 wherein the feeder lines (54) are evenly spaced over the entire length of the distributor line (38).

43 (New) A nozzle assembly (22) in accordance with Claim 30, wherein at least one surface of the guide plate (28) directed toward the nozzles (36) consists of a hydrophilic layer (62).

44. (New) A nozzle assembly (22) in accordance with Claim 30, wherein a mechanism is provided for producing a relative movement between the substrate (2) and the nozzle assembly (22).

45. (New) A nozzle assembly (22) in accordance with Claim 44, wherein the mechanism comprises a unit for moving the nozzle assembly (22) substantially parallel to the surface of the substrate (2), or a linear-movement unit for moving the substrate (2) and/or the nozzle assembly (22).

46. (New) A nozzle assembly (22) in accordance with Claim 45, wherein the nozzle body (26) and the guide plate (28) are attached to a pivotal

arm (32).

47. (New) A nozzle assembly (22) in accordance with Claim 30, wherein the guide plate is wider (28) than the substrate (2).

48. (New) A nozzle assembly (22) in accordance with Claim 30, wherein the outermost nozzles (36) along the line are spaced by a distance which is greater than the width of the substrate (2).

49. (New) A nozzle assembly (22) in accordance with Claim 30, wherein a mechanism (19) is provided for adjusting the spacing between the lower edge (64) of the guide plate (28) and the substrate (2).

50. (New) A nozzle assembly (22) in accordance with Claim 30, wherein the lower edge (64) of the guide plate (28) is a sharp edge.

51. (New) A nozzle assembly (22) in accordance with Claim 30, wherein a mechanism is provided for opening and closing pre-determined nozzles, and in particular, the outermost nozzles.

52. (New) A nozzle assembly (22) in accordance with Claim 30, wherein an angle within the range of 90° to 94°, and preferably between 90.5° and 93° is formed between the nozzles (36) and the guide plate (28) and more preferably between 90.5 and 92.